

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:RGH

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

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EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

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R 202235Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 20,
1975:

Q. WELL, SHOULD WE BEGIN BY ASKING YOU IF MR. GWERTZMAN IS
ON POINT TODAY WHEN HE SAYS THAT EGYPT, ISRAEL AND THE
UNITED STATES HAVE AGREED TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AN INDEPENDENT PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN THE SINAI IF THE
UN SECURITY FORCE SHOULD BE REMOVED?

A. I DO NOT THINK THAT PARTICULAR REPORT IS CORRECT.

Q. I'M SORRY. THEY ARE ASKING QUESTIONS ON THE HILL AS
TO CERTAIN CONTINGENCIES. THERE ARE GOING TO BE
AMERICANS THERE, ACCORDING TO WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS
SAID. NOW, WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A MOBILIZATION OF
FORCES? WHAT DO THE AMERICANS DO? THE ANSWER TO THAT
GIVEN BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IS THAT IT WILL BE IN A UN
BUFFER ZONE. WELL, WHAT IF THE UN FORCES AREN'T THERE?

A. AS FAR AS QUESTIONS BEING RAISED BY THE CONGRESS, AS
I HAVE SAID, WE ARE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESS.
IF AND WHEN THERE IS AN AGREEMENT, WE CERTAINLY WILL BE
BACK IN TOUCH WITH THEM IMMEDIATELY.

Q. BOB, COULD YOU BE MORE EXPLICIT ABOUT WHAT IT IS YOU
ARE DENYING HERE? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOUR ANSWER IS
PHRASED TO REFER TO WHETHER OR NOT THE UNITED STATES HAS
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GIVEN ASSURANCES? ARE YOU PLAYING ANY SEMANTIC SALAMI
HERE?

A. NO, I AM NOT PLAYING SEMANTICS OR SERVING SALAMI. I
THINK BARRY ASKED ME ABOUT NEWS REPORTS ON THAT PART OF
THE AGREEMENT, THAT WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING--A SUBSTITUTE
FOR A UN PEACE FORCE. I AM SAYING THAT IT IS MY UNDER-
STANDING THAT THAT PARTICULAR POINT WHICH HAS BEEN
COMING OUT IN VARIOUS NEWS REPORTS IS NOT CORRECT.

Q. THE POINT IS NOT WHETHER IT WILL BE A FORCE OUTSIDE
THE UN, BUT A FORCE THAT IS COMPOSED PERHAPS OF UN
MEMBERS BUT NOT SUBJECT TO SECURITY COUNCIL VETO. HAS

ISRAEL BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT A FORCE WILL BE CREATED THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO SECURITY COUNCIL VETO?

A. BARRY ASKED THE QUESTION AND I SAID THAT POINT IS NOT CORRECT.

Q. I THINK I ASKED A BROADER QUESTION. I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAID. LET ME TRY AGAIN. YOU ARE SAYING THAT IT IS NOT CORRECT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ASSURED ISRAEL OF A SUBSTITUTE FORCE SHOULD THE SECURITY COUNCIL PULL OUT THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE FROM SINAI.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. I MEAN THERE IS TO BE A UN FORCE AS PART OF THIS DISENGAGEMENT. I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WILL BE CREATED IN THE SAME WAY THE EXISTING FORCE IS CREATED.

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO COMMENT TODAY AS TO WHETHER THE MANDATE OF THE PRESENT FORCE WILL BE CHANGED OR IF IT IS CHANGED IN WHAT WAY IT WILL BE CHANGED.

Q. WHAT I AM TRYING TO SAY IS HAVE THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION BEEN DISCUSSING ANOTHER TYPE OF FORCE TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. THE DIRECT ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS I DO NOT KNOW.
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BUT I WOULD FOLLOW THAT UP BY SAYING THAT, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING THE SOVIET UNION GENERALLY INFORMED ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. BOB, WHILE THE SECRETARY IS IN ISRAEL, OR WHILE HE IS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WILL TECHNICAL TALKS ON ISRAEL'S MILITARY REQUESTS START UP?

A. I JUST CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION. WE HAD THOSE TECHNICAL TALKS --

A. -- ON THE WHOLE AID PACKAGE, WHILE YOU WERE AWAY. THERE WERE TWO PARALLEL TALKS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL NOW PERMIT US TO COMPLETE OUR ANALYSIS OF ISRAELI NEEDS.

Q. I'M SORRY. MY UNDERSTANDING, AND I AM OBVIOUSLY APPARENTLY WRONG, WAS THAT THE TALKS, THE TECHNICAL TALKS, WERE NOT ON ISRAEL'S MILITARY REQUEST, CERTAINLY NOT ON THE SUSPENDED F-15'S, LASER BOMBS, LANCERS.

A. THEY WERE NOT ON SPECIFIC HARDWARE ITEMS. THEY WERE ON THE OVER-ALL REQUIREMENTS OF ISRAEL, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE MILITARY AID, AS WELL, BUT IN THE FINANCIAL SIDE RATHER THAN ON THE HARDWARE LIST.

Q. WILL THERE BE HARDWARE TECHNICAL TALKS NOW?

A. I THINK FIRST WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO COMPLETE OUR ANALYSIS OF THE OVER-ALL PROBLEM BEFORE WE PROCEED ON THAT. WHAT THE TIMETABLE IS, I JUST DO NOT KNOW. I AM SURE THERE ARE PARALLEL CONSIDERATIONS GOING ON.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE TO COMPLETE YOUR ANALYSIS, AND

THAT THE LEVEL OF ARMS REQUESTS AND ECONOMIC AID REQUESTS HAS NOT BEEN WORKED OUT YET, AND WILL NOT BE WORKED OUT UNTIL THE INTERIM AGREEMENT IS WORKED OUT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF UNCLASSIFIED

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AID TO ISRAEL HAS NOT AS YET BEEN WORKED OUT.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT DR. KISSINGER SAID TO THE LEADERS YESTERDAY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT MORE THAN DOLS 2 BILLION WOULD BE ABOUT AS MUCH AS CONGRESS COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED?

A. I AM JUST NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON THIS PRIVATE MEETING THE SECRETARY HAD WITH THESE PEOPLE.

Q. DOES CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS ALSO INCLUDE THE AMOUNT OF AID THE ISRAELIS -- THAT THE ADMINISTRATION THINKS IT COULD PUT THROUGH CONGRESS AS A SIDE PART OF ANY AGREEMENT THE ISRAELIS WOULD SIGN WITH THE EGYPTIANS?

A. I JUST, IN REPLY TO (A PREVIOUS) QUESTION, SAID THAT WE HAD NOT REACHED AN AID LEVEL, SO IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONSULT WITH THEM ON A QUESTION OR A POINT THAT HASN'T BEEN REACHED.

Q. BUT THE QUESTION IS: HAS THERE BEEN SOME INDICATION FROM THE CONGRESS THAT DOLS 2 BILLION IS THE MAXIMUM LEVEL THEY WOULD GO FOR, OR ANY LEVEL?

A. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE HAD SPECIFIC CONSULTATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY THE WHITE HOUSE WITH THE CONGRESS ON THE INTERIM AGREEMENT, POINT A. POINT B, IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF BUSINESS, WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE CONGRESS EVERY DAY, AND SO AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT, WE HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA

AS TO THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON ANY NUMBER OF ISSUES.
BUT I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC AID LEVELS AS FAR
AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED.

Q. ON THE AID LEVEL, OBVIOUSLY THE ADMINISTRATION
WON'T GO WITH ITS MIDDLE EAST PACKAGE UNTIL CONGRESS
RECONVENES, WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY AFTER THE KISSINGER
SHUTTLE ENDS.

IN THE MEANTIME, HAS THE ADMINISTRATION TOLD THE ISRAELIS
UNCLASSIFIED

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WHAT IT CAN EXPECT?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION. THAT HAS
OBVIOUSLY BEEN A SUBJECT OF OUR TALKS -- THE WHOLE
QUESTION OF ISRAELI AID -- BUT I THINK THE PRIMARY FOCUS
HAS BEEN TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM ISRAEL SO WE COULD
MAKE AN ANALYSIS. THOSE TALKS JUST CONCLUDED LAST
WEEK.

Q. BOB, CAN YOU GIVE US ANY IMPRESSION OF THE FREQUENCY
OF CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPT, EITHER THROUGH THE
AMBASSADOR -- I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE THROUGH THE
AMBASSADOR -- WHILE MR. DINITZ HAS BEEN HERE TWICE A DAY?
IS THERE A PARALLEL EXERCISE GOING ON?

A. IT IS DIFFICULT TO CALL IT PARALLEL, BECAUSE HERE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN TALKS.
THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN IN. SO IT IS DIFFICULT
TO DESCRIBE THAT KIND OF A PARALLEL. BUT CERTAINLY
THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY MUCH INFORMED OF
WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE, AND THEY ARE A PART OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH AMBASSADOR EILTS. YOU CAN ASSUME
THAT HE HAS BEEN SEEING THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ON A
REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS BASIS.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY ALTERATION IN THEIR POSITION
OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON THE POSITION OF EGYPT
OR ISRAEL. WE ARE ACTING AS A MEDIATOR AND WE ARE TRYING
TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT.

Q. BOB, I WOULD LIKE TO VERIFY THE UN FORCE QUESTION
AGAIN. WERE YOU DENYING THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND THE
UNITED STATES HAVE AGREED THAT IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT ONE
OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL VETOED
THE RENEWAL OF THE BUFFER FORCE MANDATE, THERE SHOULD BE
SOME FORCE IN ITS STEAD?

A. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS

REPORTS THAT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THERE IS SOME AGREEMENT
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OR DISCUSSION ABOUT A SUBSTITUTE FORCE FOR THE PRESENT
UN FORCE. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE REPORTS ARE
INACCURATE.

Q. WHY IS THE INFORMATION BEING TRANSFERRED AT THE
SECRETARIAL LEVEL FROM THE UNITED STATES TO ISRAEL, AND
AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE
EGYPTIANS?

A. SECRETARY KISSINGER IS IN WASHINGTON, AND THE
EGYPTIAN COUNTERPARTS ARE IN ALEXANDRIA AND CAIRO.

Q. DON'T THEY HAVE AN AMBASSADOR HERE?

A. WE HAVE BEEN WATCHING THIS NEGOTIATION FOR SOME TIME.
IT IS CURIOUS THAT IT HAS TO BE PUT ON THE RECORD THE
FACT THAT IN WASHINGTON, THE PRIMARY LOCALE HAS BEEN
BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AND
AMBASSADOR DINITZ, AND IN THE CASE OF EGYPT THE PRIMARY
LOCALE OF THE EGYPTIAN SIDE OF THE LOCATION HAS BEEN
THROUGH AMBASSADOR EILTS AND THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. OF COURSE, WE HAVE CHANGED AMBASSADORS TO ISRAEL, JUST
SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE A PARALLEL ARRANGEMENT, SENDING A
CAREER AMBASSADOR THERE.

A. I SAID THE PRIMARY LOCALE. AMBASSADOR TOON IS ALSO
INVOLVED.

Q. YOU MENTIONED THAT ANY AGREEMENT TO STATION UNITED
STATES CIVILIANS SOMEWHERE OVER THERE AS PART OF THIS
AGREEMENT WOULD BE APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS. SIMILARLY,
WOULD A GUARANTEE OF SOME KIND OF UNITED STATES SUBSIDY
FOR THE ISRAELI PRICE OF OIL BE SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED
STATES CONGRESS?

A. IN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS, ANYTHING THAT REQUIRES
THE APPROPRIATION OF U.S. PUBLIC FUNDS REQUIRES AN
APPROPRIATION BILL INTRODUCED IN AND APPROVED BY THE
CONGRESS. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO SPEND U. S. GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC FUNDS THAT I AM AWARE OF. KISSINGER
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